

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JULY 21, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E-911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Human Resource Director Denise Manual, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Deputy Property Appraiser Elaine Maige, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, and Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy.

Major Plair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Assistant Administrator Hammond opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Traylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

FY 2009-10 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Administrator Butler appeared before the Board and presented the recommendations from the Budget Committee as follows: (1) delay funding of sports complex- \$300,175.00 (already deducted from Budget), (2) stop improvements/maintain jail in current condition-\$37,000.00 (already deducted from Jail Budget), stating that the recommendation is to deduct an additional \$198,000.00 from the Budget, (3) not hire a second Animal Control Officer-\$34,989.00 (already deducted from Budget), (4) drop Property/Casualty Insurance-\$25,000.00, (5) Sunset Conflict Counsel-\$1,800.00, stating that this would be effective October 1, 2009, and that this would allow the Clerk to use that area as a storage facility (she is currently have to rent space), (6) cut Mosquito Control Budget-\$34,292.00 (already deducted from Budget), (7) Health Department allocated Budget to pay for building insurance (\$18,165.84) and maintenance (\$5,000.00), stating that this amount does not include the auto insurance, and (8) Fire Districts pay for insurance on their buildings-\$10,365.18; for a total of \$406,456.00.

He then discussed the non-recurring costs already deducted as follows: (1) communications-\$150,000.00, (2) Munis system-\$50,000.00, (3) communications building in Wewahitchka-\$8,500.00, (4) Courthouse renovations-\$100,000.00, (5) roof/Maintenance Shop and Supervisor of Elections Office-\$50,000.00, (6) maintenance equipment-\$60,000.00, (7) Wewahitchka Courthouse roof-\$60,000.00, (8) Public Works Building-\$18,000.00, (9) beach rake-\$60,000.00, (10) landfill escrow-\$147,706.00; for a total of \$704,206.00.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed other possible solutions as follows (1) initiate tipping fees-\$500,000.00, (2) consolidation-\$500,000.00, (3) consider cutting the D.R.A.-\$250,000.00, (4) initiate ½ cent tax-\$300,000.00.

SUNSET CONFLICT COUNSEL (#60600-41000/21212-41000 GENERAL FUND)

Commissioner Yeager motioned to proceed with the recommendation from the Budget Committee to Sunset the Conflict Counsel Office (decrease \$1,800.00), and allow the Clerk to use this space as storage (decrease \$4,200.00). Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (#42562- GENERAL FUND)

Commissioner Yeager discussed that all Health Department cost (buildings and automobiles) needs to be in their budget, and motioned to proceed with the recommendations from the Budget Committee. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Yeager amended his motion to include adding the Insurance totals to the Health Department budget. Commissioner Traylor stated that his second stands. Upon inquiry by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Traylor stated that the funds are going to be shifted not decreased. After discussion by members of the Board, the motion then passed unanimously.

FIRE DISTRICTS

Commissioner Yeager discussed the possibility of shifting the cost to insure the Fire Districts buildings to the dependent Fire Districts, stating that the decrease in property values is 25% lower than what they had the previous year. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Major Plair discussed that this will really have an effect on the smaller Fire Departments. The Board agreed to continue insuring the Fire Department buildings in the General Fund budget.

PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE

Commissioner Williams discussed the Property/Casualty Insurance and motioned to receive R.F.Q.'s for a new broker on the Property/Casualty and B.C.B.S. Insurance. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Human Resource Director Manuel discussed that the contract for Property/Casualty Insurance is for two years, and B.C.B.S. contract is for one year. Commissioner Williams amended his motion to accept R.F.Q.'s for B.C.B.S. and not Property/Casualty. Commissioner Yeager stated that his second stands, and the motion passed unanimously.

LANDFILL/TIPPING FEE

Commissioner Yeager discussed charging a \$35.00 per ton tipping fee at the landfill which would generate approximately \$350,000.00, stating that the landfill is costing approximately \$900,000.00, and with the ½ cent sales tax revenue committed to the landfill this budget could possibly be funded from something other than Ad Valorem.

Commissioner Yeager motioned to proceed with the plan for a \$35.00 per ton tipping fee. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Commissioner Williams discussed that the County only needs to pick-up yard debris from the roadside. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously.

CONSOLIDATION

Commissioner Yeager discussed the savings by consolidating, stating that this would be a future realized savings in the amount of \$500,000.00, and motioned to tentatively reduce the budget by a total of \$200,000.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Commissioner Williams discussed that there needs to be a 2nd person hired for Animal Control, stating that a person could be shifted during the consolidation.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Commissioner Williams discussed that the \$300,000.00 for the sports complex will be contingent upon the meeting on July 22, 2009 with the City. Clerk Norris reported that this has already been removed from the budget.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (#27954-82000 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the C.D.C.'s current budget of \$5,000.00 and stated that they have requested a \$20,000.00 increase for FY 2009-10. Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively budget \$5,000.00 for C.D.C. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CHEMICAL ADDICTION RECOVERY EFFORT (#51363-82100 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the Board of County Commissioners currently does not fund C.A.R.E., and they have requested \$5,000.00. Commissioner McLemore motioned not to fund C.A.R.E. in the FY 2009-10 Budget. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

HEALTH CARE RESPONSIBILITY ACT (#51462-82000 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Bay Cares current budget of \$1,411.00 and stated that they have requested a \$2,043.00 increase. Commissioner McLemore motioned to tentatively approve only \$1,411.00 for the FY 2009-10 Budget. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA (#57172-81001 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the City of Wewahitchka's current budget is \$14,094.00 (fire truck payment) and they are requesting a \$5,906.00 increase. Commissioner McLemore motioned not to increase the City of Wewahitchka's budget as requested. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NORTH FLORIDA CHILD DEVELOPMENT (#56069-82001 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that North Florida Child Development has requested

\$125,000.00 for FY 2009-10. Commissioner Williams motioned tentatively to deny their request for funding. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

N.W. REGIONAL LIBRARY (#62271-34100 GENERAL FUND)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the Library's current budget is \$115,027.00 and they are requesting a \$24,117.00 increase (lost \$20,622 in State funding). Commissioner McLemore motioned tentatively to approve \$115,027.00 for local funding. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GULF COUNTY JAIL (#31123 FINE & FORFEITURE)

Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively reduce the Jail budget an additional \$198,000.00 (various line items). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Supervisor of Elections Griffin discussed that the increase in her budget is due to utility bills. She discussed that the Health Department invoiced her for the utilities, and it had never been allocated in her budget.

The meeting did then recess at 6:36 p.m., E.T.

The meeting reconvened at 6:48 p.m., E.T.

TENTATIVE COUNTY-WIDE MILLAGE RATE

Clerk Norris advised the Board that the tentative county-wide millage rate prior to tonight's reductions stood at 5.9817 mills. After decreasing expenses by \$406,385.00 (includes less 5%), the tentative millage rate is 5.7762, stating that they have reduced taxes by \$1,190,235.00. Upon inquiry by Tom Graney, Clerk Norris reported that the current proposed Ad Valorem taxes are \$11,421,172.00.

GULF COUNTY JAIL (#31123 FINE & FORFEITURE)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that they are not staffing the Jail according to the Florida Model Jail Standards, stating that there will be funds remaining in the FY 2008-09 Budget, and recommended carrying forward \$135,000. He discussed that there is a pending medical bill and Bay Medical has agreed to accept \$35,000.00 this year. He discussed that they would like to carry forward \$135,000.00, stating that \$35,000.00 will be placed in the inmate medical line item, and \$100,000.00 in reserve for contingency. Commissioner Traylor motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE COUNTY-WIDE

Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve the tentative budget and tentative County-wide millage rate of 5.7762. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Commissioner McLemore discussed that he does not agree, stating that more needs to be cut from the budget. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion then passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Peters scheduled the first public hearing for the FY 2009-10 tentative Budget for September 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., E.T. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES DEPENDENT SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICTS

Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the tentative millage rate for each Department Special Fire Districts at ½ mil each. Commissioner Williams recommended that all fire departments continue to work with Chief Administrator Butler. Commissioner Yeager discussed that there is a lot of property which does not fall under any fire control district, and recommended County Attorney McFarland review.

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE GULFSIDE M.S.T.U.

Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively adopt a millage rate of 7.3310 mills for the Gulfside M.S.T.U., and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Peters voting no.

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE - GULFSIDE INTERIOR M.S.T.U.

Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively adopt a millage rate of 3.4610 mills for the Gulfside Interior M.S.T.U., and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Peters voting no.

MILLAGE RATE

Commissioner Traylor discussed the tentative budget, stating that if the Boards intention is not to have an increase in millage, then personnel will have to be cut from every Department. Chairman Peters discussed that Gulf County is not a County at 10 mills, stating that the County has worked hard to keep the millage rate down over the years, and they have some flexibility. He discussed that he is against cutting any personnel.

VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Yeager motioned to appoint Pat Hardman as the Board appointed citizen representative to serve on the Value Adjustment Board, contingent upon County Attorney review. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:10 p.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK